

SEVIS Batch Technical Forum

December 4, 2003

Conference Minutes

Purpose

On December 4, 2003, a SEVIS Batch Technical Forum was conducted for selected representatives of schools, programs, and vendor organizations. The Forum provided an opportunity for participants to review System Change Requests (SCRs) planned for future releases. The Forum also provided an opportunity for participants to review draft copies of the SEVIS Batch Interface Control Document and SEVIS Batch Schemas that had been modified to reflect intended design for the SCRs that are planned for release as SEVIS 5.0.

Objective

The objective of the SEVIS Batch Technical Forum was to:

- Share information with Batch users on SEVIS Batch issues and future plans
- Provide a method in which attendees could share experiences and issues
- Enable the SEVIS Program to gain feedback on SEVIS Batch concerns and requirements

Through this Forum, the SEVIS Program wanted to ensure that issues were prioritized at the user community level and that the SEVIS Batch user community was provided an opportunity to comment on intended design features for new functionality that will be added to SEVIS Batch in the next major release.

Conference Agenda

The Agenda for the conference is included in the Conference Minutes as Attachment A.

Attendees

Thirty-four representatives from schools, programs, and vendor organizations attended the conference. The attendee list is provided below:

Attendee	Organization Represented
Yoon Sung Lee	Alliances Abroad, Inc.
Rick Bajwa	American Institute for Foreign Study, Inc. (AIFS)
Sheldon Zola	Arizona State University
Marsha Stakley	Bergen Community College
Marcia Stark	Columbia University
Amy Noel	Council on International Educational Exchange
Wesley Wollner	Datatel, Inc.
Joe O'Connor	Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)

Attendee	Organization Represented
Donald Back	ELS Language Centers
Kristen Shaab	G-1440
Rick Cynowa	Illinois Institute of Technology
Dennis Kear	Institute of International Education (IIE)
Jim Buck	International Exchange of North America, Inc. (IENA)
Emily Cheng	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Patty Croom	Michigan State University
Robert Birichi	Northeastern University
Christine Collins	Purdue University
Sumie Jacoby	Rochester Institute of Technology
Margy Hockett	SCT Corp.
Greg Leonard	SCT Corp.
Brian Man	SCT Corp.
Sonal Dedhia	State University of New York at Binghamton
Chris Kagy	The United States Agency for International Development
Jeanne Horvath	The University of Michigan
Leigh Sours	U.S. Department of State
Shelly Ritornato	U.S. Department of State
Chulho Yang	University of Maryland
Roger Chiu	University of Texas at Arlington
Kitty Villa	University of Texas at Austin
Janet Byers-Dent	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Aron Ledger	Windstar Technologies, Inc.
Gene McKinney	YMCA of Greater NY
David Haggerty	Youth For Understanding USA, Inc.

In addition, the following members of the SEVIS project team participated in the conference.

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Organization Represented</u>
Andria Settles	DHS - SEVIS Program
Robert Wilmore	DHS – SEVIS Program
Amy Faulkner	DHS - SEVIS Program
Mark Hamilton	EDS – SEVIS Division Manager
Janice Wilcox	EDS – SEVIS Implementation Manager
Delna Williams	EDS – SEVIS Batch Development Manager
Scott Barclay	EDS – SEVIS Development Team
Jane Chien	EDS – SEVIS Development Team
Kenneth Weng	EDS – SEVIS Development Team
Beth Lawrence	EDS – SEVIS Requirements Team
Andy Seifert	EDS - SEVIS Tier 1 Batch Team
Asim Awan	EDS - SEVIS Quality Assurance Team
Yuneek Johnson	EDS - SEVIS Quality Assurance Team
Jackie Lee	EDS - SEVIS Quality Assurance Team
Wilson Ouyang	EDS - SEVIS Quality Assurance Team
Jamie Hogg	EDS – SEVIS Implementation Support

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Organization Represented</u>
Rob Russell	EDS – SEVIS Implementation Support
Chuck Campbell	EDS – SEVIS Production Support
Craig Long	EDS – SEVIS Production Support

Conference Agenda Items

Opening Remarks

Robert Wilmore welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their participation in the Forum. Robert explained that the purpose of the session was to develop mutual cooperation between the Student and Exchange Visitor Program and organizations using or developing applications for SEVIS Batch. In addition, the sessions would provide a mechanism for prioritizing system changes and reviewing release schedules. DHS plans to schedule SEVIS Batch Technical Forum sessions twice each year. The Forum was conducted as an open discussion session and participants were encouraged to ask questions at any time during the discussions.

Review of Release 4.8 System Changes

The listing of SCRs that were planned for implementation as SEVIS Release 4.8 were reviewed. The handout provided to the attendees is included as Attachment B. The following comments were addressed:

- Page 2, Item 18, ID 4352 – Participants requested that this alert be removed, since currently, there are no repercussions if users don't update records every 6 months.
RESPONSE: This suggestion has been forwarded to DHS for review.
- Page 3, Item 20, ID 4392 – Participants wanted to know how often this update is provided to the Department of State (DoS), and how DoS uses the information.
RESPONSE: The information is sent daily and is used by DoS during the visa issuance process.

Review of Release 4.10 System Changes

The listing of SCRs that were planned for implementation as SEVIS Release 4.10 were reviewed. The handout provided to the attendees is included as Attachment C. The following comment was addressed:

- Page 2, Item 7, ID 4550 – Participants asked whether this change would also be applied to exchange visitor processing.
RESPONSE: SCR 4550 addresses F/M student updates only. SCR 4277 was written to address this problem for exchange visitor extensions and has not yet been assigned to a release.

Review of Release 5.0 System Changes

The listing of SCRs planned for implementation as SEVIS Release 5.0 were reviewed. The handout provided to the attendees is included as Attachment D. The following comments were addressed:

- Page 1, Item 1, IDs 1981 & 4488 – Participants wanted more information regarding the change of status process, not just what happens at the Service Centers.
RESPONSE: This is a procedural question and has been forwarded to DHS.
- Page 2, Item 4, IDs 3621 & 3642 – Participants requested that these Business Rules be included in the ICD.
RESPONSE: The business rules will be included in the Batch ICD.
- Page 2, Item 6, ID 3635 – Participants expressed concern that there was no matriculation function for exchange visitors.
RESPONSE: SCRs 5294 (RTI) and 5339 (Batch) were opened to modify the matriculation function. These SCRs have not yet been assigned to a release.
- Page 3, Item 7, ID 3643 – Participants requested that this list be disabled if there are no repercussions for not updating students every 6 months; that the regulations for this update be provided; and that the list be made available for download via Batch.
RESPONSE: These requests have been forwarded to DHS for review.
- Page 3, Item 8, ID 3728 – Participants requested confirmation that Country of Citizenship was not a required field for dependent records.
RESPONSE: Country of Citizenship is not a required field for dependents.
- Page 3, Item 12, ID 3799 and 4487 – Participants requested the ability to remove this flag after it had been sent, and clarification on whether the field will be required.
RESPONSE: The design for this new functionality has not yet been finalized. The concerns raised by the participants will be considered.
- Page 3, Item 13, ID 3920, 4532, 2525, and 4482 – Participants expressed confusion as to why employment records couldn't simply be edited. They also expressed concern regarding the inability to positively identify employment records. In addition, participants requested information on the matching criteria that would be used for canceling employment requests, e.g., employment begin and end dates, employer name, etc.
RESPONSE: Users will be able to update OCE requests through Batch prior to adjudication of the request. Update functionality for CPT and OPT is not under consideration at this time. Users will be able to cancel CPT requests prior to employment start date and OPT requests that have not yet been adjudicated and create a new request. The validation for CPT and OPT will be modified as follows:
 - For CPT requests, SEVIS will permit overlapping employment dates.
 - For OPT, SEVIS will permit a Pending request to overlap with a Cancelled request.
- Participants expressed concern regarding timing issues between Batch and RTI updates.
RESPONSE: Batch submissions occurring between 4:00 am and 10:00 pm will be processed at 10:00 pm each day. Batch submissions occurring between 10:00 pm and 4:00 am will be processed at 4:00 am. This schedule may change in the future without notice to users. Users should not submit records to be edited via batch if the same record

or same data will be edited via RTI on the same day. The user may choose to update the record in RTI or update the record in Batch – but not both during the same day.

- Page 4, Item 16, IDs 4257 & 5076 – Participants wanted to be able to use the alternate Empty Tag format.

RESPONSE: Either type of empty tag format is acceptable, i.e., <MIDDLENAME/> or <MIDDLENAME></MIDDLENAME>.

- Page 5, Item 21, IDs 4567 & 4568 – Participants expressed concern about apparent lack of consistency with the order of the PDF files sent back in relation to exchange visitor dependents. SEVP agreed to look for patterns to identify what conditions generated a PDF file for an exchange visitor dependent.

RESPONSE: SCR 6064 was opened to address the printing of exchange visitor dependent forms when updates, such as an extension, are made to the principal's record. This SCR will be included in Release 5.0.

- Page 5, Item 22, ID 4569 – Participants requested the ability to reprint exchange visitor records in INITIAL status.

RESPONSE: For F/M students, the reprint option will be available for records in INITIAL or ACTIVE status. For exchange visitors, the reprint option will be available for Exchange Visitor records in ACTIVE status only. New functionality is being added to permit updates for INITIAL status exchange visitor records through Batch prior to the issuance of a Visa. This new functionality will permit printing of the updated Form DS-2019.

- Page 6, Item 25, IDs 4637 & 4899 – Participants requested a full list of allowed ISO equivalent characters and confirmation that ampersand (&) or at (@) signs would or would not be allowed.

RESPONSE: See ISO/IEC 10646:2003 - Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS).

- Page 10, table of student termination codes is missing termination code 24.

RESPONSE: The termination code of "NO SHOW – SYSTEM TERMINATIONS" is number 24.

Discuss DRAFT ICD and Schemas

Create-UpdateStudent Schema

The Create-UpdateStudent schema is used to create and update F-1/M-1 student and dependent records. The following questions were asked during the review of this schema:

- Participants requested an example of multiple errors in a process (i.e., the chaining of errors).

RESPONSE: This information will be available when the updated DRAFT SEVIS Batch ICD is release in September 2004

- Participants were confused as to why files get returned in the middle of the day.

RESPONSE: EDS conducted research and could not determine a reason other than manual processing after a production problem had occurred the previous night. If participants have specific examples, they should forward these to the SEVIS Help Desk.

- During discussion of the UTF-8 format, it was noted that users must use specific text editors. Some editors do not build compatible files.
RESPONSE: XML created by text editors which prefix the file with the Byte Order Mark will not be accepted by SEVIS Batch.
- Participants asked if the POST/GET command was case-sensitive.
RESPONSE: The POST/GET command is case sensitive.
- Participants asked whether the user ID was required to download.
RESPONSE: Prior to release 5.0, userID has not been required. Beginning with release 5.0, userID will be required as an additional parameter.
- Participants wanted to know if User Defined A & B are fixed or variable length fields. They requested that these fields be made variable length.
RESPONSE: Currently, the User Defined A and B fields are currently fixed length. With Release 5.0 these fields will be modified to be variable length.
- Participants asked why Citizenship Country Code was not required for dependents.
RESPONSE: DHS and DoS have determined that Country of Citizenship is not a required field for dependents.
- Participants requested confirmation that the remarks for students and their dependents would now print properly.
RESPONSE: The problem with printing remarks will be corrected with Release 5.0.
- Participants asked if there would be a leave of absence flag added to denote when a student was absent from the country.
RESPONSE: At this time, there is no method for designating that a student is on a leave of absence. The leave of absence and study abroad processes are being reviewed by DHS.
- Participants wanted to know if students could be Authorized To Drop Below across sessions.
RESPONSE: The action "Authorize To Drop Below Full Course" is based on dates entered by the school official for the reason the student needs to drop below full course load. The drop below period may cross over multiple sessions, however, the school will be required to register the student in each session.
- Participants expressed concern regarding the proposed process to edit employment information (cancel current request, submit new).
RESPONSE: Users will be able to update OCE requests through Batch prior to adjudication of the request. Update functionality for CPT and OPT is not under consideration at this time. Users will be able to cancel CPT requests prior to employment start date and OPT requests that have not yet been adjudicated and create a new request. The validation for CPT and OPT will be modified as follows:
 - For CPT requests, SEVIS will permit overlapping employment dates.
 - For OPT, SEVIS will permit a Pending request to overlap with a Cancelled request.
- Participants requested that tag names not be replicated, e.g., Remarks. They prefer unique tag names.
RESPONSE: There is no problem using the same tag name in multiple structures. The structure in which the tag is used determines to which section of the record the remarks are related.

- Participants requested information on what happens if batch sends arrival data but the record already has arrival information that was received from a SEVIS interface.
RESPONSE: If the arrival data was added by the SEVIS interface with ADIS, the information provided through the Batch interface will be ignored. No error message will be provided in these cases.
- Participants noted the Business Rule for Resume Course Load was incorrect in the Draft ICD, and asked how the Cancel functionality would perform.
RESPONSE: With Release 5.0, the Resume Course Load function will be removed. Instead, SEVIS will permit the PDSO/DSO to cancel an authorization to drop below full course prior to the authorization start date. After the authorization start date, the PDSO/DSO will be able to update the authorization to drop below full course reason and authorization end date. The Authorization Reason, Authorization Start Date, and Authorization End Date will be required for cancellation or update.
- Participants noted that item C46 in the ICD is misleading, Change of Status vs. the 6 month required status update.
RESPONSE: ICD will be corrected for release 5.0.
- Participants asked about the purpose for confirming the students' status every 6 months. Also, they wanted to know if it was required during post-completion optional practical training (OPT).
RESPONSE: A response will be provided by DHS.

EXCHANGE VISITOR SCHEMA DISCUSSION

- Participants stated that when they try to send in a new DS-2019 for an exchange visitor on a new program, they error off with the 'Duplicate Record Found' error. They also mentioned this occurs with F/M students.
RESPONSE: SEVIS was modified to accept duplicate records with SEVIS Release 4.9.2 implemented February 6, 2004.
- Participants recommended changing the title of the link 'add extension request' to 'extend program'.
RESPONSE: This element will be renamed "Extension".
- Participants wanted to know if the Name of Site of Activity will print.
RESPONSE: No, the Site of Activity Name will not print on the Form DS-2019.
- Participants wanted to know if the Effective Termination date could be in the past.
RESPONSE: Yes, using the Batch interface, the Effective Termination day may be set to a past date.
- Participants noted that some J reprints do not have the SEVIS ID in them.
RESPONSE: This issue should be reported to the SEVIS Help Desk with specific SEVIS IDs so that the problem may be properly researched.

Collect issues and suggestions from Forum attendees

The floor was opened to participants to voice their issues and concerns. The following issues were raised:

- Participants are experiencing difficulty using the .TXT version of the reports.
RESPONSE: This issue has been raised previously and plans are underway to modify the current reporting function in a future release.
- Participants expressed concern that the Vermont Service Center seems unwilling to cancel approved OPT.
RESPONSE: This issue will be forwarded to DHS.
- Participants recommended using new Transaction and Error codes, rather than recycling current codes. This would allow for backwards compatibility.
- Participants express great concern with the time allotted for testing.
RESPONSE: This issue will be addressed with DHS to allow more time in the release schedule for testing by Batch users.
- Participants want batch to have greater interactive functionality, and noted that it has fewer functions than the RTI.
RESPONSE: Due to the time required to update and publish the Batch ICD, and the time required for vendors and organizations to update their applications, SEVIS Batch functionality will lag behind RTI. Release 5.0 will include most functionality that has already been implemented in RTI.
- Participants want to be able to see more than 500 records at a time in a report.
RESPONSE: The ability to view all records relevant to an Alert or List was added with Release 4.12 implemented August 8, 2004.
- Participants want to be able to choose how many records they see on a screen as well as be able to sort by column headings.
RESPONSE: This request is under review.
- Participants would like a complete set of Business Rules.
RESPONSE: This request is under review.
- Participants want to be able to search without having to use the prefix 'N' or leading zeros.
RESPONSE: This request is under review
- Participants noted that the 2nd major doesn't print on the I-20.
RESPONSE: This information will be provided to DHS for their review.
- Participants would like their technical resources included in the broadcast emails.
RESPONSE: The SEVIS Help Desk is developing a web site where interested parties may register to be included on the distribution list for SEVIS notices.
- Participants would like a breakdown of what actions are allowed for records in INITIAL and ACTIVE statuses.
RESPONSE: This information will be included in the updated SEVIS Batch ICD in the tables entitled "SEVIS Batch – RTI Event Matrix for Students and Dependents" and "SEVIS Batch – RTI Event Matrix for Exchange Visitors and Dependents".
- Participants would like a breakdown of which events require adjudication.
RESPONSE: This information will be added to the SEVIS Batch ICD in the tables

entitled "SEVIS Batch – RTI Event Matrix for Students and Dependents" and "SEVIS Batch – RTI Event Matrix for Exchange Visitors and Dependents".

- The SEVIS Team provided the information that beginning with Release 5.0, the Batch ID will be unique rather than sequential.

Wrap up and Q&A

DHS thanked the attendees for their participation in the Forum. The many recommendations would be reviewed for possible inclusion in future SEVIS releases.

Attachment A: SEVIS Batch Technical Forum Agenda**SEVIS Batch Technical Forum**

December 4, 2003

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

AGENDA

Registration	9:00 – 9:30
Welcome	9:30 – 9:40
Introductions	9:40 – 9:50
Release 4.8	9:50 – 10:30
BREAK	10:30 – 10:45
Release 4.10 and 5.0	10:45 – 11:30
LUNCH	11:30 – 12:30
Discuss DRAFT ICD and Schemas	12:30 – 2:30
BREAK	2:30 – 2:45
Collect issues and suggestions from Forum attendees	2:45 – 3:30
Wrap up and Q&A	3:30 – 4:00

Attachment B: Release 4.8 System Changes

Anticipated SEVIS Release 4.8 System Changes

As of December 4, 2003

Planned Release Date: December 31, 2003

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
1.	1843	RTI	Additional Data Carried over on Transfer	For transferred students, additional data (Driver License number, Driver License Issue State, Social Security Number, Individual Taxpayer ID, Foreign Address, Visa number, Visa Issuance Post Code, Passport number) will carry over to the new school.
2.	1913	RTI	System allows continued engagement in CPT or OPT after a transfer	When a student transfers, CPT or OPT employment will be cancelled if the employment start date is in the future. If the employment start date is in the past, but is not completed, the employment end date will be set to the registration date at the new school.
3.	2807	RTI	New Invalid Status Reason	An RO/ARO will be able to cancel an INITIAL status DS-2019 by setting the status to INVALID with a reason of Form Canceled. The allotment of available DS-2019s for the program will automatically be incremented by one for each exchange visitor DS-2019 marked as invalid in this manner.
4.	3115	RTI	Extension Beyond Maximum should NOT change the Program Begin Date	The system will no longer change the program begin date when an extension beyond the maximum duration of participation has been approved.
5.	3367	RTI	Add fields to Student View Screen	A student's current employment authorizations, authorizations to drop below full course, registration dates and transfer information will be displayed on the student view screen. A separate link will allow the user to view pending requests for OPT, CPT, Off-Campus Employment, Extensions, Authorize to Drop Below, and Disciplinary Action.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
6.	3489	RTI	Transfer student's request status is not displayed on student view	The transfer-in request will be added to the student view screen at the transfer-in school.
7.	3589	Batch	Adds draft records when form allotment number has been exceeded	Batch processing will be modified to prevent the creation of draft records if the form allotment for the program has been exceeded.
8.	3604	Batch	Batch does not recognize RO/ARO in charge of multiple programs	An RO/ARO who is assigned to more than one program will be able to use SEVIS Batch at each program using the same User ID.
9.	3663	RTI	I-20 Event History List	The student's I-20 will display the student's current authorizations separately from the student's event history. This information will print on page 3 of the student's I-20.
10.	3829	RTI	Allow ARO to Appoint an RO	An ARO will have the ability to submit a request to appoint a new RO for a program.
11.	3843	RTI	Add school code to transfer list	Users will have the option to select a specific school code when transferring a student to another school.
12.	3861	RTI	Updates to Officials don't display or print correctly	Display and printing of changes to officials will be corrected.
13.	4127	RTI	Change Program Begin Date	An RO/ARO will be able to change the program begin date or program end date ONLY if the exchange visitor record is in INITIAL status.
14.	4250	RTI	New requirements for termination and completion for an exchange visitor	When an RO/ARO enters a future termination or completion date, the exchange visitor record will be terminated or completed on that date instead of being terminated or completed on the date the action is entered.
15.	4346	RTI	Allow viewing of updates to the I-17 that are awaiting adjudication	Users will be able to view I-17 updates that are awaiting adjudication. Users will also be able to view saved I-17 updates.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
16.	4347	RTI	Update exchange visitor and dependent records in INITIAL status	An RO/ARO will be able to update all information associated with an exchange visitor or dependent in INITIAL status prior to visa issuance.
17.	4351	RTI	Add sorting requirements	All school lists, student lists, search results and status reminders will be sorted by name, e.g., school/campus or student name.
18.	4352	RTI	Modify status confirmation requirements	The alert "Active Students Requiring Status Verification" will only display students that have not had a status update in the past 6 months.
19.	4360	RTI	Allow overlapping CPT sessions	Users will be able to enter CPT sessions that overlap; users will also be able to add more than two CPT sessions.
20.	4367	RTI	Not Allowing 24 Month Duration for Flight Training	The maximum duration of participation for an exchange visitor in the flight training category has been increased to 24 months.
21.	4392	Department of State (DoS) Interface	Send records to DoS after every update	The system will be modified to send all data changes, not just status changes, to the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs (Consolidated Consular Database).
22.	4413	Batch	Minimum Duration for G-1, G-2, G-3 Programs	A program duration of less than 3 weeks for G-1, G-2 and G-3 program sponsors will be accepted through SEVIS Batch.
23.	4420	RTI	International Funding - Other Organization Error	The erroneous error message that displays when a user enters "Other - International Organization" and enters a dollar amount without entering remarks will be removed.
24.	4445	RTI	Dependents of transferring exchange visitor are marked as transferred prematurely	The system will be modified to correct a problem where dependent records are marked as "Transferred" when the principal's transfer request is entered.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
25.	4565	CLAIMS Interface	CLAIMS adjudication results are not updated after the initial request is received	The system will be modified to process updates received on benefit requests even if a prior adjudication result has been received and recorded.
26.	4580	RTI	Modify Registration Alert Listing	The alert "Active Students Requiring Registration" will not show students that are in post-completion OPT.
27.	4598	RTI	Cannot update US address for student sometimes	Updates to a student's US address will be correctly saved.
28.	4606	RTI	Add Search for Students with Reinstatement pending	Users will be able to search for students who have a pending reinstatement request.
29.	4759	RTI	Incorrect Number of Forms from Most Recent Allotment	The calculation used to display the number of DS-2019 forms remaining will be corrected.
30.	4761	RTI	Update EV and Dependent Profile Screens	An RO/ARO will be able to view all sites of activity for an exchange visitor from the profile screen. After a reinstatement has been approved, the RO/ARO will be able to see both the old and new program end dates for the exchange visitor.
31.	4810	RTI	School code should be displayed for sub-campus	The school code will include the 3-digit campus code (e.g., WAS214F99999001, WAS214F99999002) when displayed on the student detail screen.
32.	4822	RTI	Terminated for CoS Alert	The alert "Students terminated due to change of status approved" will not include students with an approved change of status to F-1.
33.	5029	RTI	Remove OPT Timing Requirements	For OPT requests, the system will display the rules associated with OPT, provide to the user a listing of the student's previously requested OPT (pending and approved), and provide the option to add an additional OPT segment.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
34.	5127	RTI	Incorrect records are listed under Students with Change of Status Request	The alert "Students With Change of Status Requests" will display only students with change of status requests.
35.	5178	Batch	Cannot modify transferred student record through SEVIS Batch	Batch processing will be modified to allow updates to a student record that has been transferred.
36.	5213	Batch	Cannot access transferred exchange visitor records through SEVIS Batch	Batch processing will be modified to allow updates to an exchange visitor record that has been transferred.
37.	5351	RTI	Enhance EV Search	All exchange visitor lists, search results and status reminders will be sorted by name, e.g., program or exchange visitor name.
38.	2046, 4529	RTI and Batch	Add dependent remarks	Users will be able to enter remarks for the student and for the dependent. Student's remarks will print on the student's I-20, and the dependent's remarks will print on the dependent's I-20.
39.	2278, 4621	RTI	Status reminder for F-1 within 30 days of end date for OPT or CPT	The alert "Students Nearing Employment Authorization End Date" will display only students within 30 days of their OPT/CPT end date.
40.	4604, 4605	RTI and Batch	Remove creation issue reasons	The following initial record creation reasons for an I-20 will be removed: "Continued Attendance," Transfer from a Non-SEVIS school, "Reinstatement Requested" and "Other".
41.	4956, 4959	RTI and Batch	Remove Creation Reasons	The following initial record creation reasons for a DS-2019 will be removed from both RTI and Batch: Continuing Exchange Visitor and Transfer-in from Non-SEVIS program.
42.	4989, 4990	RTI and Batch	Max Duration for Research Scholar and Professor - 42 Months	For both RTI and Batch, the maximum duration of participation for an exchange visitor in the professor and research scholar category has been increased from 3 years to 42 months.

Attachment C: Release 4.10 System Changes

Anticipated SEVIS Release 4.10 System Changes

As of December 4, 2003

Planned Release Date: TBD

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
1.	3151	RTI	Incorrect data on Secondary Student Placement Report	<p>Correct the problem with incorrect data on the Secondary Student Placement Report. The RO/ARO should have the ability to generate the Secondary Student Placement Report to identify host family placements for exchange visitors with the following fields, sorted by exchange visitor name:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Program Name2) Program Number3) Exchange visitor name4) SEVIS ID5) Exchange visitor date of birth6) Begin and End Program Dates7) Site of Activity, including name of site of activity and address8) Current Address9) Country of Citizenship10) Status <p>The system will permit the RO/ARO to generate the Secondary Student Placement Report by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To and From dates2) EV status
2.	3356	RTI	Problem with 400 Report	Correct problem where incorrect data is included on the 400 Report- Profile of Sponsor Activity report.
3.	3461	RTI	Students should fall off Change of Status, Extension, and Transfer list 30 days after decision date	For the following requests, the pending records should be displayed until the adjudication result is received and the adjudicated events should be displayed for 30 day after the decision date: M Extension, M Transfer, Change of Status [to F/M]

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
4.	3810	RTI	Date Form Printed not Showing on J-2	Correct the problem where the date the form is printed is not showing up on the J-2's DS-2019.
5.	3734	RTI	Modify the education level update for students	Add functionality to allow the PDSO/DSO to change the education level for ACTIVE status F-1 students. This feature will function similarly to the transfer function, creating a new INITIAL status I-20 for the student, carrying over the same fields that are carried over on a transfer. The new program start date must be greater than the current date. The new program end date is not limited to one year. The school will be required to register the student at the new program level. This will also allow the school to update and print the current I-20 as needed until the student begins the new education level. NOTE: If the student is in INITIAL status, the PDSO/DSO may still change education level through the current EditProgramInfo element.
6.	4224	RTI	Pending Extension Changes	Modify functionality when printing an I-20 for an M-1 student with a pending extension request: 1) Print the requested (extended) program end date on the I-20 (field 5) for the student and any associated dependent record 2) Print "Program Extension Pending" in field 3 along with "Continued Attendance" for the student 3) Print "Program Extension Pending" in field 3 along with "Use by dependents for entering the United States" for associated dependent records.
7.	4550	RTI	Do not allow extension of F-1 program end date after current program end date	Correct problem where the program end date may be updated after the program end date has passed.
8.	4624	RTI	Annual Report presents invalid / missing data	Correct the problem where the Annual Report presents invalid or missing data.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
9.	5136	RTI	Allow U.S. for Country of Birth for exchange visitors	Modify functionality to permit entry of United States as the country of birth for exchange visitors and their dependents. If the RO/ARO selects United States or a United States territory for the country of birth for an exchange visitor or the dependent of an exchange visitor, one of the following options must be selected: 1) U.S. - Born to Foreign Diplomat 2) U.S. - Expatriated NOTE: SCR 5381 addresses this change for the SEVIS Batch interface.
10.	5362	RTI	Modify exchange visitor search functionality	Modify the exchange visitor search functionality to perform the queries more efficiently and with a quicker response time to the user.

Attachment D: Release 5.0 System Changes

Anticipated SEVIS Release 5.0 System Changes

As of December 4, 2003

Planned Release Date: TBD

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
1.	1981, 4488	RTI and Batch	Update student termination reasons	Update the table of student termination reasons. (See attached table)
2.	2272, 4483	RTI and Batch	Cancellation Reason	<p>Add functionality for canceling a student or dependent record. The PDSO/DSO or District Officer must enter one of the following reasons when canceling a student record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Student not attending;2) Visa Issued for different SEVIS ID;3) Student registered under different SEVIS ID;4) Record Created in error;5) Offer Withdrawn. <p>The PDSO/DSO or District Officer must enter one of the following reasons when canceling a dependent record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Record Created in error;2) Dependent will not accompany student. <p>Allow the PDSO/DSO to enter a remark when canceling a student.</p>
3.	3607	Batch	Minimum and maximum duration validation failure results in DRAFT records	Add validation to SEVIS Batch to catch invalid minimum and maximum durations of stay to prevent creation of DRAFT records.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
4.	3621, 3642	RTI and Batch	Reduced Courseload Changes	<p>Modify the reduced course load business rules as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Allow the PDSO/DSO to update the drop below information for a student. 2) Allow a PDSO/DSO to enter multiple authorized to drop below full course segments as long as the authorization dates do not overlap with another segment. 3) Ensure that if an F-1 student is authorized to drop below full course for a reason of illness or medical condition that the authorization end date is not more than 12 months from the authorization start date. 4) Ensure that if an M-1 student is authorized to drop below full course for a reason of illness or medical condition that the authorization end date is not more than 5 months from the authorization start date. 5) Allow the PDSO/DSO to cancel an authorization to drop below full course prior to the authorization start date; 6) allow the PDSO/DSO to enter a remark when canceling an authorization to drop below full course. 6) After the authorization start date, allow the PDSO/DSO to update an authorization to drop below full course reason and authorization end date. 7) After the authorization start date, allow the PDSO and DSO to indicate that a student who has been authorized to drop below full course has resumed a full course of study. <p>For RTI: The business rules for the authorized to drop below will be displayed when the PDSO/DSO is authorizing a student to drop below full course. For a transfer student who is currently authorized to drop below full course, the system will update the authorization to drop below full course end date with the transfer release date.</p>
5.	3625, 3641	RTI and Batch	Add field for OPT Employment	<p>Add functionality to require that when entering OPT employment for a student, the PDSO/DSO must indicate whether the student has met the 1 full academic year requirement. If the PDSO/DSO indicates the student has met the 1 full academic year requirement for OPT employment, the system shall print on page 3 of the I-20 "The student has met the 1 full academic year requirement" along with the OPT details.</p>

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
6.	3635	Batch	Required date field missing in Matriculation of exchange visitor	Add a date element under EVMatriculation to document the date of matriculation.
7.	3643	Batch	Confirm Student Status - 6-month check	Add functionality to allow the PDSO/DSO to confirm the status of students whose record has not been updated in SEVIS for 6 months through the Batch interface.
8.	3728	Batch	Country of Citizenship should be required when creating students through batch	Make the CitizenshipCountryCode a required field when creating a new student record using the CreateUpdateStudent.xsd schema. The CitizenshipCountryCode is not required when updating an existing student record.
9.	3738	Batch	Incorrect error message for CurrentSessionEndDate validation	Correct the business rule for CurrentSessionEndDate. Currently, when the CurrentSessionEndDate is set to a past date the error message reads [New Session end date must be in the future]. The message should inform the user that the Current Session End Date must be later than the current date.
10.	3746	Batch	Existing official cannot register for J Batch processing	Modify the Batch registration process to allow an official who is both a PDSO/DSO and RO/ARO to register for Batch for each school/program using the same userID.
11.	3795	Batch	Transaction log should have one naming convention	Modify the process for creating results files so that all results files have the same naming convention, schoolcode_batchid_log.xml and schoolcode_batchid.zip.
12.	3799, 4487	RTI and Batch	Add indicator for student's last session of program	Add functionality to allow the PDSO/DSO to indicate during registration that a student is in the last session of his/her program. If during registration the PDSO/DSO indicates that the student is in the last session of his/her program, the next session start date is not required.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
13.	3920, 4532, 2525, 4482	RTI and Batch	Add functionality to cancel OPT, off-campus employment, or M-1 extension requests that have not yet been adjudicated; Add functionality to cancel CPT employment that has not yet started	Add functionality to enable the PDSO/DSO to perform the following actions: 1) Cancel a request for OPT employment that has not been adjudicated. 2) Cancel a request for off-campus employment that has not been adjudicated. 3) Cancel a request for a M-1 extension that has not been adjudicated. 4) Cancel a CPT segment prior to the employment start date.
14.	3943, 5288	RTI and Batch	New Completion Reason for an exchange visitor	Add functionality to allow the RO/ARO to enter the effective date to end the program for an exchange visitor when one of the following occurs: 1) the exchange visitor withdraws from the program 2) the exchange visitor is unable to continue the program 3) upon the death of the exchange visitor 4) the exchange visitor completes his/her program 30 days or more prior to program end date 5) the exchange visitor successfully completes his/her program When the RO/ARO elects to complete the exchange visitor's program through RTI, , the system will display a confirmation message and require the RO/ARO to confirm the action.
15.	4175, 4838	RTI and Batch	Remove Watermark Copy of DS-2019	Remove the watermark copy of the DS-2019. The entry data for a J-1 is now being electronically collected at the Port of Entry; therefore, the watermarked copy of the DS-2019 no longer needs to be generated.
16.	4257, 5076	Batch	Allow Student and Exchange Visitor schema to allow empty tags; Can not remove secondary major & minor for F-1 students	Add functionality to the SEVIS Batch interface to remove previously provided information by using a blank element, e.g., <MiddleName></MiddleName>. Add the ability to remove secondary major and minor for F-1 students by using blank elements for these fields. Only optional data elements may be deleted using this method.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
17.	4371	Batch	Only adds 1 dependent through AddDependent event when more than 1 is submitted	Correct the problem that occurs when more than one dependent is submitted through the SEVIS Batch interface and only one of the dependents is successfully added to the exchange visitor's record.
18.	4486, 5278	Batch	Modify the education level update for students	Add functionality to allow the PDSO/DSO to change the education level for ACTIVE status F-1 students. This feature will function similarly to the transfer function, creating a new INITIAL status I-20 for the student, carrying over the same fields that are carried over on a transfer. The new program start date must be greater than the current date. The new program end date is not limited to one year. The school will be required to register the student at the new program level. This will also allow the school to update and print the current I-20 as needed until the student begins the new education level. NOTE: If the student is in INITIAL status, the PDSO/DSO may still change education level through the current EditProgramInfo element.
19.	4526	Batch	Batch should allow only numeric values for Tax ID	Modify validation for Tax ID field to allow only numbers to be entered for a student's Tax ID, which is under the student's personal information. For example: IRS123456 is not allowed in RTI, but was accepted in Batch.
20.	4534	Batch	Remove requirement that CPT sessions cannot overlap	Modify processing for CPT Employment to allow creation of overlapping CPT sessions. NOTE: This functionality was added to RTI in SEVIS Release 4.8.
21.	4567, 4568	RTI and Batch	Print Dependent's I-20s with Student's I-20 when an extension, OPT, or Transfer In request is processed	Include printing the dependent's I-20 when a student's I-20 is printed after updating a student record for an extension or a request for OPT employment. I-20s for the student and associated ACTIVE status dependents will be printed.
22.	4569	Batch	Add Reprint function to Batch	Add functionality to request a reprint of a form I-20 for both the principal and associated dependents through the Batch interface. For exchange visitors or the dependent of an exchange visitor, reprint is only permitted for a record that is in ACTIVE status and the principal and dependents must be reprinted individually.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
23.	4603	Batch	Incorrect 12 month check on F-1 Extensions	Correct the F-1 extension function to accept a 12-month extension for an F-1 student.
24.	4630	RTI and Batch	Remove Reasons to End Program for an exchange visitor	Remove the following reasons from the drop down list of reasons an RO/ARO may use to end a program for an exchange visitor or dependent: 1) Cancellation - Change of Status 2) Change of Status Denied - Change of Status These status values are used to record change of status results from the CLAIMS interface and should not be available for selection by the RO/ARO or for use in SEVIS Batch processing.
25.	4637, 4899	RTI and Batch	Do not allow numeric characters to be entered for family name, first name, or middle name	Modify the system to accept only alphabetic characters in the family name, first name, and middle name fields. Current records with numeric characters in these fields will be modified to remove the numeric characters. Organizations that have previously used numeric characters in these fields will be notified prior to the removal of the numeric fields from their existing records.
26.	4671	Batch	Incorrect error message given for wrong school code	Modify the error message provided when the following situations occurs: 1) PDSO1 is PDSO at both Campus A and B; 2) PDSO1 registered for Batch under both Campus A & B; 3) PDSO1 tried to update students belonging to Campus B with Campus A's school code; 4) Download results provided the error [User is not approved to perform this action] message. PDSO1 has the authority to updates these students, but the file was uploaded using wrong school code. The error message should denote this error correctly and state that these students do not belong to provided school code.
27.	4695, 4696	RTI and Batch	All Categories must have Site of Activity - Batch	Add new requirement to ensure that a Site of Activity is provided for all categories of exchange visitor.
28.	4706	Batch	Multiple Spouses on Student Update Add Dependent	Correct the problem when a dependent is added as an update in Batch to prevent allowing multiple spouse to be added. Only one spouse is allowed per student.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
29.	4718	Batch	EditEVBio does not require BirthDate element; but without it update fails	Correct the problem where submission of the EditEVBio and EditDepPersonal elements must have a BirthDate element in order for the transactions to be successful. The BirthDate element should not be required for the EditEVBio or the EditDepPersonal events.
30.	4720, 4721	Batch	Remarks element under UpdateSubjectField should be required	Add validation to ensure that all three sub-elements of the UpdateSubjectField event are required elements for the SEVIS Batch interface when updating an exchange visitor record.
31.	4738, 4739	RTI and Batch	Modify Costs Exceed Resource Requirements	Modify the system operation when costs exceed the student's total resources as follows: 1) Do not display a message to the PDSO/DSO when the student's financial information is updated and total costs exceed total resources asking the DSO to confirm submission. 2) Do not display a message to the PDSO/DSO stating that the record must be updated within 60 days to correct the situation or the student will be terminated. 3) Do not display a status reminder when a student's record is updated and total costs exceed total resources. 4) Do not automatically terminate students when the student's record has indicated that total costs exceed total resources for 60 days.
32.	4785	Batch	Invalid dates give System Error: Unknown Error.	Correct problem where an incorrect error message is provided when an invalid date is submitted in the ProgramStartDate element when creating a new exchange visitor record.
33.	4881	Batch	Remove the requestID attribute from the EditDependent element	Remove the requestID attribute from the EditDependent element for exchange visitor processing in SEVIS Batch. This attribute is not necessary.
34.	4952, 4960	RTI and Batch	New Termination Reason for exchange visitor of Other	Add the termination reason of Other to the list of termination reasons for an exchange visitor. When a reason of Other is chosen, the RO/ARO must enter an associated comment.

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
35.	4968	Batch	Permit update of exchange visitor or dependent record in INITIAL status	<p>Add functionality to permit the RO/ARO to update an exchange visitor or dependent record that is in INITIAL status. The following updates will be permitted for an exchange visitor in INITIAL status who has not been issued a Visa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update Biographical Data 2) Update Subject/Field Code 3) Update Financial Information 4) Add Site of Activity 5) Update Site of Activity 6) Delete Site of Activity <p>The following updates will be permitted for a dependent in INITIAL status who has not been issued a Visa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update Dependent Personal Information <p>Add functionality to permit the RO/ARO to request a print of the DS-2019 when any of the updates listed above have been completed.</p>
36.	4981	Batch	Batch IDs longer than 14 characters give incorrect upload failure message	<p>Correct the problem where the incorrect error message is provided when an XML file with a Batch ID greater than 14 characters is uploaded through the SEVIS Batch interface. Currently, Batch IDs longer than 14 characters are failing upload with error code S0001, "File Upload Unsuccessful". This file is well-formed but is invalid; thus it should receive error code S0002, "File does not comply with SEVIS XML Schema".</p>
37.	5069	Batch	Remove OPT Timing Requirements	<p>Modify validation when an Add OPT Employment transaction is processed. For RTI: The system will display the rules associated with OPT, provide the PDSO/DSO a listing of the student's previously requested OPT (pending and approved), and provide the option to add an additional OPT segment.</p>

No.	ID	Subsystem	Title	Description
38.	5256, 5257	Batch	US address line 2 is not handled properly	Correct problem where address line 2 element is not handled properly by SEVIS Batch when updates are submitted to US address. Problem occurs when multiple updates are submitted as follows: 1) Record 1 updates address line 1, address line 2, city, state, and zip. 2) Record 2 updates address line 1, city, state, and zip; address line 2 element is not provided for Record 2. 3) Updates result in Record 2 being written to the database with address line 2 from Record 1. The data should not be carried over from Record 1.
39.	5331	Batch	School with multiple campuses cannot use separate certificates for Batch	Modify the Batch registration process to allow registration with separate certificates for each campus associated with a single I-17.

NOTE to SCR 1981: Provided below is a list of the termination reasons. Columns have been added to note which termination reasons are available for F-1 students and those available for M-1 students. Termination reasons not marked for F-1 or M-1 students are system termination reasons only.

Student Termination Code	Student Termination Description	Available For F-1 Students	Available For M-1 Students
01	UNAUTHORIZED WITHDRAWAL	X	X
02	DEATH	X	X
03	UNAUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT	X	X
04	UNAUTHORIZED DROP BELOW FULL COURSE	X	X
05	AUTHORIZED DROP BELOW FULL COURSE TIME EXCEEDED	X	X
06	CHANGE OF NONIMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION		
07	CHANGE OF NONIMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION DENIED		
08	EXPULSIONS	X	X
09	SUSPENSION	X	X
10	ABSENT FROM COUNTRY FOR FIVE MONTHS	X	X
11	FAILURE TO ENROLL	X	X
12	COSTS EXCEED RESOURCES	X	X
13	TRANSFER STUDENT NO SHOW	X	X
14	DENIED TRANSFER		X
15	EXTENSION DENIED		X
16	OTHERWISE FAILING TO MAINTAIN STATUS	X	X
17	VIOLATION OF CHANGE OF STATUS REQUIREMENTS	X	X
18	CHANGE OF STATUS DENIED	X	X
19	CHANGE OF STATUS WITHDRAWN	X	X
20	CHANGE OF STATUS APPROVED	X	X
21	TRANSFER WITHDRAWN		X
22	NO SHOW – MANUAL TERMINATION	X	X
23	AUTHORIZED EARLY WITHDRAWAL	X	X
24	NO SHOW – SYSTEM TERMINATIONS		